CLAIMS

1. Method of producing enantiomerically pure etodolic acid comprising: (i) the resolution of a racemic mixture of etodolic acid; (ii) the racemization of the etodolic acid remaining in the mother liquors, in the presence of a Lewis acid, and (iii) the resolution of the racemic mixture thus obtained.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the Lewis acid is $SnCl_4$.

3. Method according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterized in that the racemization is performed in an aprotic, apolar, organic solvent.

4. Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the aprotic, apolar, organic solvent is a chlorinated solvent.

5. Method according to Claim 4, characterized in that the chlorinated solvent is CH_2Cl_2.

6. Method according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterized in that the racemization is performed in a mixture constituted by an aprotic, apolar, organic solvent and an aprotic, polar, organic solvent.

7. Method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the mixture is constituted by from about 5 to about 15 volumes of the aprotic, apolar, organic solvent per volume of aprotic, polar, organic solvent, preferably from 8 to 10 volumes.

8. Method according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, characterized in that it is performed in a mixture of THF and CH_2Cl_2.

9. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the concentration of the etodolic acid in the solvent in the racemization step is between 0.1 and 1 moles of acid per litre of solvent, preferably between 0.3 and 0.4 moles.

10. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the quantity of catalyst is between 1% and 20% molar, relative to the etodolic acid.

11. Method according to Claim 10, characterized in that the quantity of catalyst is about 1% molar, relative to the etodolic acid.

12. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the racemization is performed at a temperature of between 10°C and 45°C, preferably about 20°C.

13. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the resolution of the racemic mixture is performed by precipitation of an optically active salt of the enantiomer of interest.